

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 EB-11 FAA-00 OMB-01 DOTE-00

SY-07 M-03 A-01 AID-20 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 USSS-00 AF-10 RSR-01 /171 W

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R 131115 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7232

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

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DEPT PASS CAIRO

EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS MP CLAIMS INFO THAT ARABS PLAN HIJACK
CYPRUS PLANE; TCPA TO RESTRICT ARABS AND ISRAELIS
FROM ENCLAVE

REF: NICOSIA 843 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: MP NICOS SAMPSON TELLS HOUSE OF REPS
ARABS PLAN HIJACK CYPRUS AIRLINER, BUT WE DOUBT HE HAS
HARD INFORMATION. TCPA BARS ARABS AND ISRAELIS FROM
ENCLAVES UNLESS THEY HAVE SPECIAL PERMITS, TAKING ON ONE
MORE FUNCTION OF STATE. PRESS REPORTS EGYPTIAN AMB HAS
ASSURED GOC THAT HIS GOVT WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE
TO PREVENT FURTHER TERRORIST ACTS ON ISLAND.

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1. AT APRIL 12 SESSION OF HOUSE OF REPS, PROGRESSIVE FRONT DEPUTY NICOS SAMPSON STATED THAT ARABS INTENDED TO SEIZE CYPRUS AIRWAYS PLANE TO BLACKMAIL GOVT INTO RELEASING ARAB TERRORISTS NOW BEING HELD BY GOVT. PRESIDENT OF HOUSE CLERIDES REQUESTED HE INFORM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, " SUPPLYING NECESSARY EVIDENCE." COMMENT: POSSIBILITY OF ARAB HIJACKING OR KIDNAPPING IS OF COURSE PRIME TOPIC OF CONVERSATION AMONG CYPRIOTS, BUT WE DOUBT THAT SAMPSON -- NOTORIOUS FOR HIS LOOSE TALK -- HAS ANY HARD EVIDENCE.

2. TURK CYPRIOT " MINISTRY OF DEFENSE" ISSUED STATEMENT APRIL 12 OUTLINING RESTRICTIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST ARABS AND ISRAELIS " IN VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS." MEASURES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. PERSONS OF ISRAELI AND ARAB ORIGIN OR NATIONALITY WILL, IN PRINCIPLE, NOT BE PERMITTED ENTER TURKISH SECTORS.

B. SUCH PERSONS WISHING ENTER ENCLAVES FOR BUSINESS OR OTHER LEGITIMATE PURPOSES WILL BE ISSUED TEMPORARY TRAVEL DOCUMENT, UPON APPLICATION TO " OFFICE OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND MEMBER FOR DEFENSE AFFAIRS OF TURK CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION."

C. ABOVE MEASURES WILL NOT APPLY IN CASE OF PERSONS HAVING DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.
COMMENT: MEASURES ARE CLEARLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT TERRORISTS FROM TAKING REFUGE IN ENCLAVES -- AS GREEK CYPRIOTS FREQUENTLY CHARGE THEY DO, AND IN THAT SENSE THEY MAY DISCOURAGE TERRORIST OPERATIONS ON ISLAND. TCPA ACTION HAS INTERCOMMUNAL SIGNIFICANCE AS WELL. IT IS FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT NATIONALS OF ANY COUNTRY OTHER THAN GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FROM ENCLAVES, AND FIRST TIME TCPA HAS ASSUMED FUNCTION OF ISSUING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR SUCH PERSONS. IT MARKS A SMALL ADDITIONAL STEP TOWARD ASSUMPTION OF FULL GOVT FUNCTIONS BY TCPA.

3. GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS APRIL 13 REPORTED EGYPTIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMB HAD GIVEN FONOFF ASSURANCES THAT A) EGYPT WOULD

DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF
TERRORIST ACTS IN CYPRUS AND B) SPECIAL ENVOYS HAD
BEEN DESPATCHED TO DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT TO ADVISE
GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS TO AVOID FURTHER TERRORIST
ACTIVITIES ON ISLAND (REFTEL).
POPPER

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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BEIRUT
CAIRO
LONDON
NEA

SECSTATE WASHDC

TEL AVIV

Type: TE

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